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FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Development of public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights

Report of the Secretary-General

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Introduction

1. In its resolution 1995/49 entitled "Development of public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights", the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, at its fifty-third session, a report on public information activities, with special emphasis on the activities of the World Public Information Campaign.

2. The World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights was launched by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/128 of 8 December 1988, with the objectives of increasing understanding and awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms and educating the public on the international machinery available for the promotion and protection of those rights and freedoms and the efforts of the United Nations to realize them.

3. The coordination of the United Nations education and public information programmes in the field of human rights was specifically mentioned in General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, as part of the mandate of the thereby created post of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The High Commissioner for Human Rights has repeatedly stressed the importance he attaches to the implementation of activities for increasing the awareness of human rights among the general public. In the context of the restructuring of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights (HCHR/CHR), great emphasis is being placed on the setting up of a communication policy that would enable all partners within and outside the United Nations to be kept informed on an appropriate and regular basis of the activities undertaken by HCHR/CHR.

4. The budget for the 1996-1997 biennium for the printing of information and reference materials is US$ 212,600. The publications programme of HCHR/CHR is continuously expanding to respond to the increasing need for human rights information.

I. PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS/CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

A. Publications programme

5. In its resolution 1995/49, the Commission on Human Rights requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights (HCHR/CHR), in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, to finalize a comprehensive review of the programme of information and publications in the field of human rights and encouraged HCHR/CHR to continue its efforts towards streamlining and focusing its publications programme.

6. In keeping with that directive, and in the context of its restructuring process, HCHR/CHR is giving priority to strenghening and making more effective its publications programme. Accordingly, an ad hoc publications board was established on 14 November 1996 with overall responsibility with regard to the management of publications.

7. Additionally, a revision of the publications programme is being undertaken in order to clearly establish a publications policy, giving priority to the need to disseminate widely information about activities and plans of HCHR/CHR. This revision also aims, to the extent possible, at replacing publications in paper form by various electronic forms. In this regard, and as part of the United Nations Secretariat, HCHR/CHR will consider carefully the conclusions and recommendations of the comprehensive survey of publications undertaken by the Joint Inspection Unit at the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 50/206 of 23 December 1995. HCHR/CHR has recently made its contribution to this survey by completing and submitting the questionnaire designed by the Joint Inspection Unit.

8. Since the last report, the HCHR/CHR has received around 3,000 letters from individuals, Governments, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and other human rights institutions requesting human rights publications. As requested by the directives received from the Office of Conference Services at Headquarters regarding the need to drastically reduce distribution of documents and publications, the HCHR/CHR mailing list has been reviewed accordingly. Priority has been given to institutions active in the field of human rights, whereas individual recipients are as limited as possible.

9. HCHR/CHR also contributed substantially during the reporting period to the preparation of the general United Nations publications, such as The United Nations and Human Rights, 1945-1995.

1. Fact Sheet series

10. The Fact Sheet series consists of booklets directed at a non-specialized audience, addressing various aspects of United Nations activities in the field of human rights, including international mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights, or specific human rights issues. Fact Sheets are published in the six official languages of the United Nations and distributed worldwide free of charge.

11. During the period under review, four new Fact Sheets have been issued: No. 22 (Discrimination against Women: The Convention and the Committee) in all United Nations official languages; No. 23 (Harmful Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children) in Arabic, Chinese, English and Russian; No. 24 (The Rights of Migrant Workers) and No. 25 (Forced Evictions and Human Rights) in English only pending further translation. Fact Sheet No. 21 (The Human Right to Adequate Housing) is now being translated into Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish. New issues on arbitrary detention and the mandate of the High Commissioner for Human Rights are in preparation.

12. Special attention has been paid during this period to the revision and updating of existing issues. In this regard, revised versions of Fact Sheets No. 1 (Human Rights Machinery), No. 2 (The International Bill of Human Rights), No. 3 (Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights) and No. 16 (The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) have already been published and several others, including those of

Fact Sheet No. 10 (The Rights of the Child), No. 9 (The Rights of Indigenous Peoples) and the second revision of Fact Sheet No. 6 (Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances) are now being edited or printed.

13. Owing to increased demand, several Fact Sheets have been reprinted, including No. 4 (Methods of Combating Torture) in English and French; No. 11 (Summary or Arbitrary Executions) in Arabic, French and Spanish; No. 7 (Communications Procedures) in French; No. 12 (The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination) in French; No. 13 (International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights) in Chinese and French; No. 14 (Contemporary Forms of Slavery) in English and French; No. 17 (The Committee against Torture) in French; No. 18 (Minority Rights) in French; No. 19 (National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights) in Arabic, Chinese, English and French; and No. 21 (The Human Right to Adequate Housing) in Arabic, Chinese, English, Russian and Spanish.

14. HCHR/CHR has the intention of putting the whole text - first in English and eventually in French and Spanish - of all Fact Sheets in the Centre's home page on the Internet. This development will enhance the wide dissemination of these publications, while contributing to reduce print runs and rationalize expenses. The complete list of Fact Sheets is contained in the annex.

2. Professional Training Series

15. An important teaching and educational tool is the established Professional Training Series, designed primarily to provide support to the training activities of the programme of advisory services and technical assistance of HCHR/CHR, as well as to assist other organizations involved in human rights education for professional groups.

16. The most recent development in this area has been the close cooperation established with the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization in Turin, Italy, to make the training manuals a more pedagogical tool. Cooperation has included the design and production of new and revised materials, as well as the organization of pilot courses to test the products. As a result of this collaboration HCHR/CHR has undertaken the revision and updating of the Manual on Human Rights Reporting, which has now been developed into a training package composed of four distinctive elements: the manual, a trainer's guide and its annexes, including training tools, and a pocket guide for participants. Similar packages will be developed for the training manuals now under preparation.

17. During the period under review a new handbook on National Institutions for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, No. 4 in the series, has been published in English, Russian and Spanish and will be soon available in French. The fifth publication in the series, Human Rights for Law Enforcement Officials is now being printed and the Pocket Guide on Human Rights for the Police is being issued.

18. During the same period previous issues of the series have been translated into other official languages, including No. 1 (Human Rights and Social Work: A Manual for Schools of Social Work and the Social Work Profession) into Arabic, Russian and Spanish; No. 2 (Human Rights and

Elections: A Handbook on the Legal, Technical and Human Rights Aspects of Elections) into Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish; and No. 3 (Human Rights and Pre-Trial Detention: A Handbook on International Standards related to Pre-Trial Detention) into French, Russian and Spanish.

19. Two further manuals, one for military officials and one for peace-keeping officials, have already been tested in pilot-training courses and are now being finalized. In the context of the Programme of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education and in cooperation with relevant experts and organizations, HCHR/CHR has envisaged the preparation and publication of six new training manuals - for prison officers, primary and secondary school teachers, legal professionals, national and local non-governmental organizations, mass media and for monitoring - and three handbooks on human rights and conflict resolution, human rights and parliament, and human rights and constitutions. More detailed information on these developments is given in the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly.

20. As a part of the contribution of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the international operation in the former Yugoslavia, HCHR/CHR published a Field Guide for International Police Task Force Monitors of the Peace Implementation Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and CIVPOL Officers of the United Nations Transitional Administration in Eastern Slavonia. Although not part of the training manual series, this publication, which was designed to fulfil the specific needs of the human rights training programme for international police task force and civilian police monitors in the former Yugoslavia, is a good example of the capacity and flexibility of HCHR/CHR to prepare human rights training tools directed to specific target audiences.

3. Human Rights Study Series

21. The Human Rights Study Series reproduces studies and reports on important human rights issues prepared by experts of the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Eight studies in the series have been published so far (see annex). Since the last report to the General Assembly two new Study Series have been issued: Study Series No. 7 (The Right to Adequate Housing) in Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Russian, and Study Series No. 8 (Sexual Exploitation of Children) in English only, pending further translation. The Compilation and Analysis of Legal Norms Applicable to Internally Displaced Persons, which will be No. 9 of the Series, is now being edited.

4. Ad hoc publications

22. Ad hoc publications consist mainly of reports and proceedings of conferences, workshops and other events held under the auspices of HCHR/CHR. There are now 17 titles in the series (see annex). The report of the Fourth Workshop on Regional Human Rights Arrangements in the Asian and Pacific Region and the Model National Legislation for the Guidance of Governments in the Enactment of Further Legislation against Racial Discrimination are being printed.

5. Reference material

23. The reference publications of HCHR/CHR, which are United Nations sales publications, are directed at a more specialized audience. They include:

(a) United Nations Action in the Field of Human Rights, which appears every five years, is the standard United Nations reference work in the field of human rights. The last issue, covering the period 1989 to 1993, is available in English and French;

(b) Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments contains the texts of the basic international instruments in the field of human rights. The publication consists of two volumes, each divided into two parts. Volume I, containing the universal instruments, has been published in all six official languages. Volume II, a publication which reproduces regional instruments is now being updated;

(c) Human Rights International Instruments: Chart of Ratifications. Two issues of this periodical appeared in 1995 and one in 1996. The current issue contains information updated to 30 June 1996;

(d) Human Rights: Status of International Instruments includes detailed information on ratifications, reservations, objections and declarations in relation to the human rights instruments contained in the Compilation as of 1 September 1987. An updated version of the Status of International Instruments is being prepared and will be published next year;

(e) The Yearbook on Human Rights has been discontinued until a more careful revision of its role and contents is undertaken and adequate resources assigned for its timely production;

(f) Official Records of the Human Rights Committee (formerly Yearbook of the Human Rights Committee) is available in English and French up to the 1983-1984 issue, as is volume I of the 1985-1986 issue. Volume I of the 1987 issue and volume I of the 1987-1988 issues are available only in English. In the period under review, the English versions of volume II of the 1985-1986, 1987 and 1987-1988 issues have been published, as well as volumes I and II of the 1988-1989 and 1989-1990 issues, and volume I of the 1990-1991 issue;

(g) Human Rights Committee, Selected Decisions under the Optional Protocol. Volume I, Second to Sixteenth Sessions is out of stock; volume II, Seventeenth to Thirty-second Sessions, is available in Spanish; the English version is out of stock and only a few copies of the French version are still available. A reprint of volume I and of the English and French versions of volume II would be highly desirable if the necessary resources are made available. A compilation of volume III of the Selected Decisions is under preparation.

6. Notes of the High Commissioner

24. HCHR/CHR has launched a new series of publications entitled "Notes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights". The series aims at

fulfilling the mandate of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as coordinator of the United Nations human rights programme, as well as to encourage debate on the aspects of the programme falling under his direct mandate. The series fills a real gap in the human rights publications programme and has been designed to be composed of three parts: a short introduction to the subject under debate, a personal interview with the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the issue and an annex with a list of the major relevant documents and resolutions. The first issue of the series, The High Commissioner for Human Rights: An Introduction, has been issued.

7. Periodicals

25. The decision to discontinue the publication of the Human Rights Newsletter, in 1992, and the Bulletin of Human Rights, in 1993, as a result of the revision of the information programme and in view of the lack of personnel available for their production, left HCHR/CHR with no external periodicals. To fill this gap, in November 1995 the High Commissioner's office started to produce internally the High Commissioner News, a four-page monthly publication on the activities of HCHR/CHR distributed to all those included on the mailing list for the United Nations human rights publications. It is now envisaged to transform this four-page periodical into a professional quarterly publication of around 20 pages in length, in order better to inform a wider human rights community.

8. Promotional materials

26. In addition to the usual publications, HCHR/CHR has embarked on the production of promotional materials designed to ensure wide dissemination of information on human rights activities in an attractive format. A four-page brochure entitled "Human rights in action" was thus released on Human Rights Day in 1996.

B. Use of electronic means

27. The need to rationalize expenses and, therefore, to maximize the impact of information and educational tools necessarily places electronic means at the core of any future information programme of HCHR/CHR. The pertinence of replacing publications in paper form by electronic forms is to be carefully analysed in the context of the revision of the information and publications programme. Since the last report to the Commission important achievements have been made in this domain.

28. A majority of staff members have access to United Nations e-mail for correspondence with New York and other United Nations offices. In addition to internal United Nations e-mail, Internet addresses have been provided to all those connected to the central Local Area Network (LAN) enabling full communication with anyone who is a participant in the Internet throughout the world. Two thirds of staff members have full Internet access. These developments have improved access to HCHR/CHR, facilitating not only the dissemination of information but also the reception of requests.

29. An Internet Committee was established to make recommendations on the content and structure of the information to be presented on the Internet.

Based on the recommendations of the Committee a Website prototype for HCHR/CHR was designed and was operational by the end of 1996. The celebration of Human Rights Day on 10 December 1996 provided an opportunity for the presentation by the High Commissioner of the new United Nations Human Rights Website, located at *www.unhchr.ch*. The Website is intended to become the most complete source of information on the Internet concerning United Nations action for the protection and promotion of human rights.

30. HCHR/CHR has developed a full-text information retrieval and database system for the treaty bodies which at present contains mainly information concerning the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The time-frame in which the system will become operational for all treaty bodies depends on the availability of resources for data entry and downloading of full-text documents. Despite various resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly inviting States Members to make one-time contributions for the establishment of the database, as of 1 July 1996, only US$ 111,643 had been received of the total 1990 estimated cost, US$ 508,500. The system is currently used by staff of HCHR/CHR and members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child who have been equipped with laptop computers. Access to the database has also been granted to UNICEF. The bulk of the information contained on it will be linked to the Web site.

31. A CD-ROM containing 14,000 bibliographical references to United Nations documents and publications from 1980 to 1994 and the full text of 95 international instruments was produced by the United Nations Library in Geneva in cooperation with HCHR/CHR. An updated version of this CD-ROM is being prepared by the Library but has not been produced yet owing to lack of financial resources.

C. External relations programme

1. Briefings

32. HCHR/CHR organizes briefings on United Nations activities in the field of human rights and on specific human rights issues for students, diplomats, journalists, public officials, professors and non-governmental organizations. HCHR/CHR also provides lectures for the briefings organized by the Department of Public Information. More than 100 such briefings were delivered by officers of the Centre during the reporting period.

2. Exhibitions and human rights observances

33. HCHR/CHR participated in an Open House day organized at the Palais des Nations on 15 October 1995 as part of the activities to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. The High Commissioner for Human Rights participated in a round table on the future of the United Nations, while HCHR/CHR displayed stands with its publications and presented a live musical based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Also in the context of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, the High Commissioner for Human Rights organized a high-level human rights forum in New York on 25 October 1995. In a first panel entitled "The United Nations human rights agenda: The next fifty years", a group of

world leaders discussed the status of human rights. The second panel gathered together senior United Nations officials on the topic "Women's rights as human rights".

34. On the occasion of the celebration of Human Rights Day, on 10 December 1995, HCHR/CHR, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, organized a round table on the subject: "Is tolerance a sufficient condition for the respect of human rights?" in which members of the international community representing five different cultural areas of the world participated. The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights acted as moderator. The round table was preceded and followed by two dance performances.

35. The announcement of the opening of human rights offices in Zaire and in Abkhazia, Georgia, and the unveiling of the new human rights Website were among the highlights of the Human Rights Day commemoration on 10 December 1996.

3. Fellowship programme

36. The General Assembly made direct provision for the human rights fellowship programme in its resolution 926 (X) of 14 December 1955. Under the terms of that resolution, assistance provided by the Secretary-General is to be rendered in agreement with Governments on the basis of their requests. Fellowships are awarded only to candidates nominated by their Governments, and are financed under the regular budget for advisory services. Every year the Secretary-General sends out invitations to Member States to submit nominations. Governments are reminded that nominees should be directly involved in functions affecting human rights, such as the administration of justice, or in the implementation of international human rights instruments at the national level. The Secretary-General also draws their attention to concerns expressed by the General Assembly, in many of its resolutions, with respect to the rights of women, and encourages the nomination of women candidates.

37. During the reporting period, there has been a substantial increase in interest in the fellowship programme, on the part of many countries. In 1995 and 1996, a particularly large number of applications for fellowships was received. Indeed, applications have tripled over the past three years, making the selection procedure extremely competitive. The Secretary-General has attempted within the limits of available resources, to ensure a broad distribution of the fellowships among the nationalities of the applicants, with priority being given, inter alia, to applicants from developing countries, taking into consideration the allocation of a fair share to women, in conformity with relevant General Assembly resolutions.

38. Following the conclusion of the 1993 fellowship programme, HCHR/CHR conducted a comprehensive evaluation, which resulted in the elaboration of a plan for the programme's revision. Among the changes adopted for subsequent fellowship programmes was the decision to hold the next sessions at the International Labour Organization's training centre at Turin, Italy, and to devote the programme to reporting under international human rights institutions.

4. Internship programme

39. During the reporting period, HCHR/CHR offered some 80 internships to graduate students to enable them to gain first-hand knowledge of United Nations actions and procedures in the field of human rights, through active participation in the work of the Centre under the direct supervision of its staff members. HCHR/CHR offers a unique experience in the field of the protection of human rights and an inside look at the United Nations human rights machinery. The internship programme has also proved to be beneficial to HCHR/CHR, easing the normally overloaded Professional's day-by-day work. The internship does not consist of a predefined programme and interns are placed according to the needs of HCHR/CHR and to their area of interest.

40. No funding has been available for the programme, internships being awarded without financial commitment of any kind on the part of HCHR/CHR or the United Nations bodies. This lack of funds to support interns has resulted in particularly low participation by students from developing countries (some 90 per cent of the interns come from developed countries). The need for funding of interns from developing countries remains an important consideration.

41. In 1996 HCHR/CHR internship programme was revised. The maximum number of interns at a particular time has been fixed at 46 and particular attention is devoted to fair geographical representation. It was decided that candidates to the internship programme should have at least a BA degree or a "licence" in a discipline such as international law, political science, history or social sciences. Good command of at least two of the six United Nations official languages and drafting ability in either English or French is necessary. Preference is given to those candidates with a specific human rights background. The duration of an internship is now from three to six months. Interns are recruited in October, for the period from January to June, and in March, for the period from July to December.

5. Training courses and other technical cooperation activities with a public information element

42. An account of the training courses, seminars and workshops organized by HCHR/CHR is given in the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights on advisory services in the field of human rights (E/CN.4/1997/86).

D. Coordination and cooperation within and outside the United Nations

1. Inter-agency cooperation

43. As part of its ongoing efforts to coordinate its activities with those of other United Nations bodies and in keeping with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/49, HCHR/CHR convenes each year in Geneva an inter-agency meeting on human rights issues. These meetings allow participants to review joint projects and to exchange information on a number of ongoing activities in the field of human rights carried out by the respective organizations. They also provide an opportunity to identify further forms of cooperation

between HCHR/CHR and the organizations concerned. Information, documentation and education in the field of human rights is one of the items on the agenda of these meetings.

44. In implementing its publications programme, HCHR/CHR cooperates with other bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, and with non-governmental organizations. An example of this cooperation is the manual on human rights training for law enforcement officials; the Fact Sheets on discrimination against women and on human rights and migrant workers were both submitted to the relevant agencies for comments.

45. HCHR/CHR actively participated with other bodies and agencies of the United Nations system in the preparation and celebration of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in September 1995, and the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul in June 1996. The main objective of HCHR/CHR in both World Conferences was to safeguard the human rights language accepted at the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in June 1993, and the adherence of the final documents to the established human rights standards. This objective was in both cases accomplished. During the World Conference on Women, the High Commissioner for Human Rights distributed a paper with his comments on the Draft Platform for Action and staff members of the HCHR/CHR participated in a panel discussion organized by CEDAW and UNIFEM entitled "Dialogue on CEDAW". HCHR/CHR also took part, and continues to do so, in the inter-agency meetings on women, including those devoted to the drafting of a system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women.

46. In the case of Habitat II, HCHR/CHR, together with the Centre for Human Settlements, organized in January 1996 an Expert Group Meeting on the Human Right to Adequate Housing, which was held in Geneva in preparation for the World Conference. A paper containing the comments of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Habitat Agenda was distributed at the third and last session of the Preparatory Committee of the Conference. During the Conference, in the context of inter-agency coordination for the follow-up to the Habitat Agenda, HCHR/CHR made a presentation on the strategy for the implementation of the human rights aspects contained in the Agenda and organized two round tables, one on "The Human Right to Adequate Housing" and another one on "Indigenous people, shelter and land", which were chaired by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, respectively.

2. Non-governmental organizations

47. Non-governmental organizations continue to cooperate actively with the United Nations bodies dealing with human rights, providing them with information and expertise. They also contribute effectively to the implementation of the activities of the World Campaign, especially in the areas of information, education and dissemination of United Nations materials and publications. The General Assembly made reference to the valuable action of non-governmental organizations in paragraph 13 of resolution 49/187, in which it requested the Secretary-General to take advantage, as much as

possible, of the collaboration of non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights, including in the dissemination of human rights materials.

48. Some 8,000 letters have been received by HCHR/CHR, during 1995 and 1996 from non-governmental organizations throughout the world, requesting publications, information and participation by the Centre in various events (seminars, workshops, conferences, celebrations). These letters were replied to individually and the requested information provided. Some of the letters contained requests to be included on the mailing list for information on human rights or documents of the Commission and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

3. Academic and research institutions

49. HCHR/CHR regularly cooperates with the International Institute for Human Rights at Strasbourg, France, where three HCHR/CHR staff members gave lectures in English, French and Spanish for a one-week period during the Institute's annual human rights courses in the summer of 1995 and 1996. In the context of the Institute's annual human rights courses, 20 human rights fellows spend two weeks at HCHR/CHR in order to deepen their knowledge of the United Nations system of promotion and protection of human rights.

50. HCHR/CHR continued its cooperation with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights; the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights at San José; the International Institute of Humanitarian Law at San Remo, Italy; the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences, at Siracussa, Italy; the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at Lund, Sweden; and the Graduate Institute of International Studies at Geneva.

51. Cooperation also continued throughout 1995 and 1996 with the Arab Institute for Human Rights at Tunis and the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights at Banjul. HCHR/CHR also gave briefings at the request of various human rights and academic institutions.

II. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

52. As part of the Department of Public Information (DPI) mandate for information programmes and activities, it coordinates and initiates public information activities to publicize the work of the Organization on human rights issues and for the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights. The Department's multimedia activities ensure the effective coverage of United Nations human rights activities as well as worldwide distribution of relevant materials on human rights. This work has special importance within the framework of the three ongoing decades: the Third Decade for the Elimination of Racism and Racial Discrimination (1993-2003), the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004) and the United Nations Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995-2004).

53. During 1995 and 1996 major events, including the World Summit for Social Development (6-13 March 1995), the fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations (1995), the Fourth World Conference on Women (4-15 September 1995), the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of

Offenders (29 April-8 May 1995) and the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II, 3-14 June), offered further opportunities to generate awareness and understanding of human rights issues and to promote the principles of respect for human rights and tolerance, as stated in the Charter of the United Nations. The International Year of Tolerance (1995) and the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (1996) provided other channels for DPI public information activities in the field of human rights. In addition, activities planned in conjunction with the calendar of international days, especially Human Rights Day, were used to showcase and to generate interest in the work of the United Nations in the field of human rights. In this respect, the outreach activities undertaken by the United Nations Information Centres (UNICs) and United Nations Information Services (UNISs) have had a significant impact.

54. In the 1996-1997 programme budget, the Department continued its promotional efforts under the thematic heading of human rights. It also carried out other mandated programmes in related areas such as social and economic development, the question of Palestine, self-determination, decolonization and the advancement of women. The Department's related activities are regularly reported to the General Assembly and to other intergovernmental bodies under each specific area or theme. In addition, the information services of the Department provide print, radio, television and photo news coverage of the proceedings of human rights meetings of United Nations organs, as well as human rights related activities of the Organization, the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

55. The multimedia approach of the Department in the field of human rights includes the production of radio and television programmes; organizing press conferences, press briefings and special events; undertaking outreach activities with educational organizations and NGOs; providing photo coverage; and producing exhibits and print materials such as press releases, brochures, pamphlets, backgrounders, booklets, fact sheets, feature articles, posters and information kits. These publications are distributed in official and non-official United Nations languages to the media and other redisseminators through the network of 68 United Nations UNICs and UNISs, and 8 United Nations Offices, as well as other channels worldwide. The material is also disseminated electronically and is available on the World Wide Web at the United Nations home page in English, French and Spanish.

A. Activities in the field of human rights, January 1995 to December 1996, at United Nations Headquarters, New York

56. The Department has a Focal Point on Human Rights in the Development and Human Rights Section, who works with DPI colleagues at Headquarters, in Geneva and the field to promote human rights issues. The Focal Point also maintains contact with non-governmental organizations, coordinates production of information materials, and arranges press conferences and radio interviews for the High Commissioner for Human Rights, special rapporteurs and chairpersons of treaty bodies when they are in New York. The Focal Point organized, for instance, a press conference for the Chairman of the Human Rights Committee while he was in New York for the fifty-seventh session of the Committee. During the debate of the Third Committee at the fifty-first session of the

General Assembly, the Special Rapporteurs on the situation of human rights in Burundi and Rwanda gave a joint press conference on the current situation in the Great Lakes region. Press conferences were also organized for the High Commissioner during his visits to New York.

57. A variety of print products on human rights issues, intended for the use of the media, the general public, non-governmental organizations, government officials, the United Nations system and educational groups, continued to be produced and widely disseminated by DPI, during the reporting period. These included:

"Challenges of Human Rights and Cultural Diversity" (DPI/1627), issued in English (20,000 copies), French (10,000) and Spanish (10,000);

"Children's Rights" (DPI/1765); "Women and Violence" (DPI/1772) and "Independence of the Judiciary: A Human Rights Priority" (DPI/1837), printed in English (20,000 each), French (8,000 each) and Spanish (8,000 each) and also widely distributed;

A brochure on the "United Nations and Human Rights" (DPI/1774), explaining the role of the different human rights bodies and of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, published in English (20,000), French (8,000), and Spanish (8,000), to accompany a wall chart on United Nations human rights mechanisms (DPI/1549);

A poster on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (DPI/1653) printed in English (20,000), French (10,000) and Spanish (10,000) and widely distributed. Because of the great demand for this poster, DPI is considering reprinting it;

The "Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action" (DPI/1394 Rev.1), reprinted in English, French and Spanish and continued to be distributed.

The Department is reissuing the Declaration on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (DPI/1709), with a new introduction. It is to be printed in English (20,000), French (15,000) and Spanish (15,000) and distributed widely through the network of 68 Information Centres and Services.

58. These materials, as well as press releases and United Nations documents, are distributed electronically by DPI to the network of Information Centres and Services and are posted on the United Nations Website on the Internet (http:\\www.un.org). For example, from January 1995 to August 1996, 621 DPI press releases in English and 594 in French were distributed by DPI on human rights issues. Such press releases, posted on the United Nations home page are accessed by more than 3,500 users per week.

59. The next issue of Notes for Speakers, a reference tool for those making presentations about the work of the United Nations, will present a round-up on United Nations conferences. This publication includes a special section about the World Conference on Human Rights.

60. Public information on the role of the Organization and its human rights activities is also disseminated through films, radio and television programmes produced regularly by the Department. These programmes are broadcast by national radio and television stations around the world. The Department continues to produce radio documentaries on human rights as part of the regular 15-minute weekly radio series that it produces in the official languages, as well as other languages such as Bangla, Dutch, French Creole, Hindi, Indonesian, Kiswahili, Portuguese and Urdu.

61. "UN in Action", a television programme produced weekly by the Department in English for CNN "World Report" (and in additional languages for wider distribution) has featured issues related to human rights in a number of programmes. The CNN programmes are broadcast in more than 120 countries. Some of the television programmes produced in 1995 and 1996 include: "The Judicial System in Rwanda", "Ghana's Free Press", "Human Rights in Guatemala" and "UN Helps with Reform of Haiti's Prisons".

62. The Department's half-hour television interview programme World Chronicle has featured a number of guests speaking on human rights issues, including the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Chairman of the Human Rights Committee, the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on the issue of children and human rights. Radio, television and print public service announcements have also been used by the Department to disseminate information about the work of the United Nations.

63. The Department has continued to organize exhibits on human rights topics; undertake press coverage of all intergovernmental meetings on human rights at New York and Geneva; hold press conferences and briefings, seminars, round tables and other activities to inform the media about the Organization's human rights work; and reply to hundreds of public inquiries on human rights issues. The Department's Public Inquiries Unit and the Focal Point on Human Rights also respond to numerous requests for human rights publications. From January 1995 to August 1996 the Visitor's Service at Headquarters arranged for 116 briefings for a total of 8,827 people on human rights issues, including special briefings on racial discrimination and women. It also arranged for special film/video screenings for other visitors.

64. The Department continued its close cooperation and collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In 1995 and 1996 the Department covered human rights issues in several of its weekly NGO briefings at Headquarters. Each briefing attracted some 150 participants representing many non-governmental organizations that are in association with the Department and in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

65. Within the framework of the Decade for Human Rights Education, the Department collaborated with the Centre for Human Rights on a survey of the various language versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights available around the world. DPI opened its files to the Centre for Human Rights and requested all United Nations Information Centres and Services to send information on, and copies when available, of the different language versions available in their offices to the Centre for Human Rights.

66. DPI organized its annual training programme for young broadcasters and journalists from developing countries, from 16 September to 24 October 1996. The six-week programme introduces participants to the work of the United Nations. The journalists attended the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, to cover United Nations activities including human rights. In 1996, 18 broadcasters and journalists from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Eastern Europe were selected for the programme, including 4 sponsored by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

67. DPI also organized a Palestinian Media Practitioners Training Programme from 15 September to 8 November 1996 for 10 Palestinian journalists from the print, radio and television media. It included briefings on human rights issues.

68. For the International Year of Tolerance (1995) a DPI backgrounder (DPI/1626) presenting the objectives of the Year was released in English (20,000), French (10,000) and Spanish (10,000). A "UN in Action" television programme entitled "UNICEF uses puppets to teach tolerance in Burundi" was among other related programmes produced. The United Nations Information Centres and Services also undertook special activities to promote the objective of the Year.

Human Rights Day at Headquarters

69. Special events to observe international days or years are another means used by DPI to promote the work of the United Nations. Some of them, in particular Human Rights Day, offer a special opportunity to advocate for and promote human rights. These events are organized by the Department at Headquarters, as well as in the field by the United Nations Information Centres and Services, which also undertake numerous special activities at the national and regional levels. Some of the latter activities include translating and printing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in local languages; producing reprints and new language versions of human rights instruments; and maintaining reference collections on human rights materials in their libraries.

70. In preparation for the observance of Human Rights Day, the Visitor's Section prepared 200 teacher's kits on human rights, which were given out with specific suggestions on activities schools could undertake on that day. Some students, for instance, wrote letters to the High Commissioner for Human Rights expressing their views and concerns on human rights issues. Sixty children from underprivileged and poor areas were offered free guided tours of the United Nations. They spent a whole day at the United Nations, were shown films and were briefed on various United Nations-related issues. A quiz contest was organized on human rights questions and the students had a demonstration of the United Nations home page on the Internet.

71. This year, a special one-day event was organized by DPI to mark Human Rights Day at Headquarters. Held on 12 December, this all-day seminar provided United Nations and human rights experts, government representatives, journalists and representatives of non-governmental organizations with a forum

to present and discuss specific human rights issues. It was opened by the Secretary-General and addressed by a representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

72. The morning session addressed the theme "Accountability and impunity in civil strife". Speakers included Ms. Navanethem Pillay, Judge on the International Tribunal for Rwanda (on "War crimes tribunals, a deterrent to human rights violations?"); Mr. Alvaro de Soto, Assistant Secretary-General, Department of Political Affairs (on "Truth commissions: a success?"); Ms. Binaifer Nowrojee, Counsel, Human Rights Watch, author of a recently released report on rape as a weapon of war during the 1994 Rwandan genocide (on "Prosecuting rape as a war crime"); and Mr. Maurice Glèlè-Ahanhanzo, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism (on "Racism, including in the press").

73. The afternoon session addressed the theme "The right to development: Is poverty an abuse of human rights?". Panellists included Ms. Inge Kaul, Director, Office of Development Studies, UNDP ("Responsibility of the private sector in eradicating poverty"); Ms. Sydney Jones, Director, Asia Division, Human Rights Watch ("The problems of migrant workers"); Ms. Kakuna Kerina, Programme Coordinator for Africa, Committee to Protect Journalists ("Information exchange and technological transfer: Impact on individual human rights") and Ms. Ofelia Calcetas-Santos, Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography ("Commercial sexual exploitation of children").

74. The event was moderated by Ms. Charlayne Hunter-Gault, National Correspondent with the television programme "News Hour with Jim Lehrer" and producer of a well-known television human rights programme "Rights and Wrongs". Both television programmes are broadcast on the National Public Broadcasting System (PBS) in the United States of America.

75. Several of the panellists were also individually interviewed by the media.

B. Activities of the United Nations Information Service, Geneva

76. HCHR/CHR is based in Geneva and relies on the media and communications services provided by the United Nations Information Service (UNIS) there.

77. UNIS Geneva has worked closely with the High Commissioner's office in those parts of the restructuring programme of HCHR/CHR which affect external communications, and agreed on collaboration designed to increase coverage in the news media of human rights activities.

78. The Director of the Information Service, as United Nations Spokesperson at Geneva, emphasizes the work of the High Commissioner and other United Nations human rights activities, especially those in the field, in the twice weekly United Nations press briefings held for representatives of the Geneva-based news media. This information is also communicated to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General in New York for dissemination to the press corps at Headquarters. In addition, UNIS Geneva has designated an officer as Focal Point for Human Rights to provide media advice and assistance to the

High Commissioner and the Centre for Human Rights. This support includes regular scanning of the media, including the major international wire services, and the compilation and distribution of media summaries. Close monitoring of the media and liaison with the press has enabled the Information Service to advise the High Commissioner on opportunities to contribute through media statements to the promotion of human rights principles. These intensified efforts have resulted in increased coverage of the work of the High Commissioner; the placement of interviews and opinion-editorial articles in major newspapers; frequent interviews by international broadcast media and improved coverage of human rights issues by news agencies.

79. UNIS continues to ensure a timely and broad coverage, through print, radio and television programmes, of the activities of the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on the Elimination of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the treaty bodies, the special rapporteurs and specialized meetings in Geneva.

80. UNIS covers all public sessions of the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission and the treaty bodies, providing detailed press releases which form the basis of much media reporting of these meetings. In 1995 and 1996, UNIS issued 824 press releases in English and 753 in French. UNIS also organized and chaired 130 press conferences on human rights issues. In 1995 and 1996, the Electronic Media Unit produced 130 radio and 135 television reports on human rights issues. In addition, UNIS provides a comprehensive document distribution service to correspondents covering the Commission and other human rights bodies.

81. Twenty-eight briefings for NGOs were organized during the fifty-first and fifty-second sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and 15 during the latest two sessions of the Sub-Commission. UNIS has also developed a system whereby UNICs and UNDP offices receive copies of official human rights documents, including final observations by treaty bodies, relevant to their countries. In addition, UNIS provides a comprehensive documents distribution service to correspondents covering the Commission and other human rights bodies.

82. Specific events are organized to highlight human rights issues. One such event in 1996 was a dialogue between representatives from around the world of people living in extreme poverty and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Organized by UNIS in conjunction with the NGO ATD-Fourth World, the event was a contribution to the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and focused on the human rights dimensions of extreme poverty. UNIS organized and publicized a public meeting on 10 December 1996 in Geneva to observe Human Rights Day and to launch the new United Nations human rights presence on the Internet.

83. During 1995 and 1996, the Visitor's Service provided 10,000 lecture tours of the Palais for a total of 270,000 visitors. These tours included specific references to the work of the United Nations in the promotion and protection of human rights and were supplemented by 40 more detailed briefings.

84. In December 1996, at the request of the High Commissioner, UNIS sent an information officer and television team to Rwanda to cover the work of the Human Rights Field Operation and to focus additional media attention on the High Commissioner's visit to Rwanda. UNIS has been working consistently through the year to project the increasing importance of the United Nations human rights field operations.

C. Activities of other Information Centres and Services

85. The following are a few of the main activities undertaken by selected Centres and Services from January 1995 to August 1996.

Ghana: UNIC Accra translated the Universal Declaration in all the 11 languages of Ghana. A seminar on human rights and a film show were organized for the launching of the book entitled Fundamental Human Rights in Africa. The audience included NGOs, representatives of the media and the Government, and academics

Kazakstan: UNO Almaty gave a lecture on human rights issues at the Institute of Law of the Republic of Kazakstan. The office also opened an exhibition of the United Nations information materials at the National Library. During two weeks, 1,200 people, including students and journalists from local and foreign media, visited the exhibition.

Greece: UNIC Athens organized a round table discussion on the occasion of the launch of the book published by DPI, The United Nations and Apartheid. The DPI video "UNOMSA" was screened and 200 people attended the event. During the visit of the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance to Greece, UNIC arranged meetings for him with NGOs, academics and representatives of religious minorities in Athens and northern Greece. The Director of the Centre participated in the opening of a symposium on "Torture in the Middle East and North Africa: Strategies for prevention and rehabilitation" organized by the Medical Centre for the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims.

Thailand: UNIS Bangkok organized, for 150 students of the Rajaphat Institute, a lecture on "Promotion, protection, prevention: Creating a culture of human rights". In early 1996, UNIS briefed 25 students of the University of New South Wales on the work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The DPI video "New horizons for human rights" was shown at the briefing.

Colombia: UNIC Bogota briefed 1,000 police officers at "Escuela de Policia General Santander". Information materials were distributed and the film entitled "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" was shown to the audience. The Information Centre provided information material to the Ombudsman's Office for the latest edition of its magazine, entirely dedicated to Human Rights Day. The circulation of the Ombudsman magazine is nearly 500,000 copies. UNIC also assisted the Ombudsman's Office in the production of two videos "Human rights for youth" and "Humanitarian international rights", providing information and "UN in action" videos.

Congo: UNIC Brazzaville reprinted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into two local languages (Lingala and Kituba). Eighty NGO representatives and students attended a screening of the film "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" in the UNIC library. A meeting was organized at the UNIC premises by the United Nations Congolese Association on "Les droits de l'homme, fondement de la liberté, de la justice et de la paix pour les générations présentes".

Belgium: UNIC Brussels assisted the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Zaire during his visit to Belgium. The Centre's representative gave a lecture on "Human rights, culture and communications" at the Catholic University of Brussels, and a lecture at a two-day symposium on "L'enfant, avenir des droits de l'homme" organized by the Belgium French-speaking United Nations Association, in cooperation with the University of Liège.

Romania: UNIC Bucharest translated into Romanian the message of the Secretary-General for Human Rights Day and disseminated it as a press release to the media and educational institutes, among others. The message was published in several newspapers and some excerpts were read on the television evening news. The Centre assisted the Human Rights Committee of the Ministry of the Interior with the publication of a booklet entitled "Human rights and the activity of the public order forces" and of a poster on "The Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials".

Argentina: UNIC Buenos Aires organized a seminar on "Inter-religious Encounter: A Prayer for Peace" to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and the International Year of Tolerance. A total of 700 people representing the media and non-governmental organizations attended. For Human Rights Day, UNIC prepared a special press kit which was distributed among the media and local NGOs. An article written by the Centre's Director on "Democracy and the United Nations" was published in the magazine "Hechos y Derechos", a regular publication of the Institute for the Promotion of Human Rights. The Centre's Director was invited to participate in several seminars. UNIC Buenos Aires received a special award from the University of San Luis for its dedicated efforts towards the promotion of human rights.

Egypt: UNIC Cairo organized, in cooperation with the Centre of Legal Studies and Information on Human Rights, the Second African Workshop for Teaching Human Rights, which was attended by 100 people. UNIC provided information material for a photo exhibition organized by the Sudanese Victims of Torture Group in order to promote public awareness of human rights.

United Republic of Tanzania: UNIC Dar-es-Salaam arranged for the message of the Secretary-General to be broadcast on several local radio stations: Radio One, Radio Tanzania Dar-es-Salaam and Radio Tumaini. The message was also read on Independent Television and Dar-es-Salaam television, and published in the Daily News.

Bangladesh: UNIC Dhaka organized a discussion in observance of Human Rights Day. Moderated by the Centre Director, the meeting was attended by the editors and chief reporters of daily newspapers and news agencies. UNIC has been in contact with the Curricula Committee of the Bangladesh Text Book Board in order to persuade them to incorporate United Nations themes in the primary- and secondary-level school curricula.

Portugal: The UNIC Lisbon Director attended the launch of a multilingual version of the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" booklet, and the opening of an exhibition on human rights, organized by the Portuguese branch of Amnesty International and the Loures Town Council. The Centre assisted the Special Rapporteur on torture during his mission in Lisbon and issued a press release on his visit.

United Kingdom: UNIC London organized a briefing for media and NGO representatives by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi. The Director attended key sessions of the First International Conference on Human Rights and Kuwaiti Prisoners of War. The Director also gave a lecture on "Human rights and humanitarian issues" to the undergraduates at Syracuse University.

Mexico: UNIC Mexico City provided information to the media on the visit of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to Mexico in 1996. UNIC staff coordinated arrangements for his lecture in Queretaro. His visit was widely covered by the national media.

Burkina Faso: UNIC Ouagadougou provided a one-hour lecture on children's rights to 10 officers of the Ministry of Social Affairs. The United Nations video "Doctors in the sky" was screened at the end of the lecture. UNIC devoted one of its weekly television programmes to a local NGO "Clubs UNESCO du Burkina Faso" and to the UNESCO contribution to the protection of human rights and the fight against discrimination.

Czech Republic: UNIC Prague Director moderated the debate at a round table discussion on ways of preventing the media being misused as a promoter of child pornography. Channels of communication were established to keep the media aware of United Nations policy and procedures.

Italy: UNIC Rome organized interviews for the High Commissioner for Human Rights while in Italy with two Italian dailies Messagero and Il Manifesto and two news agencies ANSA and Vatican Radio. The Centre Director participated in a meeting on human rights education in Europe attended by 300 people representing the media, academic institutes, NGOs and the general public.

Iran (Islamic Republic of): During the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in Iran, the Centre arranged for his interviews with AFP, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) and the Persian daily Ettela'at. The Centre produced a press release in Farsi and English in all major newspapers. During the visit of the Special

Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, UNIC Tehran organized a meeting with representatives of Reuters, Kyodo, AFP and the Italian News Agency.

Japan: UNIC Tokyo organized jointly with the Government of Japan an international symposium and an exhibit on human rights. The Centre provided posters, photos and information materials. A total of 10,000 people from non-governmental and governmental organizations attended. UNIC also participated in a symposium on human rights in the Asia and Pacific region attended by 300 people.

Namibia: On the occasion of Human Rights Day, the Centre organized the launch of the book Human Rights Education and Advocacy in Namibia in the 1990s, the report of a human rights workshop jointly organized by the University of Namibia, UNESCO and UNIC Windhoek in 1993. The launch was followed by a panel discussion on human rights. The Centre Director took part in a live television panel discussion on human rights issues, along with the Minister of Higher Education, a representative of the Red Cross and the Executive Director of the National Society of Human Rights.

D. Activities for the Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995-2004)

86. The General Assembly, in its resolution 48/163 of 21 December 1993 in which it proclaimed the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995-2004), stated that the Decade's main objective was "to strengthen international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education and health". The theme of the Decade "Indigenous peoples: partnership in action" should also provide the opportunity to enhance cooperation between indigenous people and the United Nations system, as well as between indigenous people and States.

87. Within the Department of Public Information, a focal point for indigenous issues was established prior to the International Year of the World's Indigenous People to coordinate and promote information activities concerning the work of the United Nations in this area.

88. The DPI Focal Point on Indigenous Issues maintains regular contact with indigenous groups through monthly meetings held in New York with the NGO Committee on the Decade of the World's Indigenous People. Issues of interest to indigenous people are discussed. The NGO Committee is briefed on any new developments regarding indigenous issues taking place within the United Nations system. The Committee is also kept informed of the outcome of any United Nations meeting related to indigenous issues, especially the annual meeting of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. DPI representatives also participate in annual sessions of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. This provides an opportunity to maintain direct contact with indigenous representatives and to obtain information which is otherwise more difficult to obtain.

89. The Department also maintains an open communication channel with different sectors of civil society. It provides association to nearly 1,500 NGOs, which include indigenous organizations. This association with DPI enables these groups to work closely with the United Nations in publicizing issues of global concern such as peace and security, human rights, international law, economic and social development, disarmament and the environment. It enables NGOs to have access to United Nations documents, promotional materials and publications, as well as an opportunity for dialogue with United Nations officials at weekly briefings organized by DPI at United Nations Headquarters. In addition, association with DPI allows these groups access to open United Nations meetings and other activities in the United Nations buildings. The NGOs also participate in activities organized by DPI and other United Nations entities to promote United Nations observances and international years and decades proclaimed by the General Assembly to focus world attention on important issues.

90. Association with DPI also enables indigenous people to be in contact with government officials when they attend preparatory committee meetings for United Nations Conferences. At these meetings, indigenous representatives have the opportunity to present their concerns to delegations and thus can influence the outcome of these conferences. Such was the case with the Social Summit (March 1995), the Women's Conference in Beijing (September 1995) and Habitat II (June 1996).

91. As part of its promotional activities, the Department is currently preparing a backgrounder on indigenous people and land issues. It focuses on the relationship of indigenous people to the land and presents some of the concerns and achievements of indigenous communities. The backgrounder will be distributed worldwide to the media, NGOs and others through the United Nations Information Centres and Services and electronically through the Internet. Possible topics for other backgrounders include:

Indigenous youth and their concerns;

Human rights and indigenous people;

Indigenous people and education;

Social and economic conditions of indigenous people.

92. A backgrounder presenting some of the successful projects funded by the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the International Decade and their impact on indigenous communities could illustrate how the United Nations system is making a difference in the lives of indigenous people.

93. The following backgrounders included in the information kit published for the International Year (1993) will be updated and reprinted:

"Who are the world's indigenous peoples?" (DPI/1296);

"Promoting the rights of indigenous people" (DPI/1248);

"Indigenous peoples and intellectual and cultural rights" (DPI/1283).

94. The Department plans to publish a poster (DPI/1813) for use during the Decade of the World's Indigenous People. The poster, to be published in English (30,000 copies), Spanish (20,000) and French (10,000), will be widely disseminated.

95. Another means of promoting indigenous issues is through radio. United Nations radio recently produced a four-part series on indigenous issues in English and Spanish. It was distributed to 600 English-speaking and 500 Spanish-speaking radio stations around the world. Radio programmes on indigenous people were also produced in various other languages, such as Bangla, Dutch, Indonesian, Kiswahili, Portuguese and Turkish. Radio documentaries on indigenous people will be produced throughout the Decade, as part of the regular 15-minute weekly radio series that the Department produces in 15 languages.

96. Dissemination of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People after its adoption by the General Assembly, is another means of promoting the rights of indigenous people. In order to reach and inform a greater number of indigenous people about their rights, UNICs will be asked to arrange for the translation of the Declaration and of other human rights instruments into indigenous local languages, where possible. For instance, so far, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been translated into more than 45 indigenous languages. UNICs will also be asked, in the context of the Decade for Human Rights Education, to contact secondary schools and colleges in their areas in an effort to include teaching of indigenous human rights issues in school curricula.

97. This year, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, activities to celebrate the second International Day of the World's Indigenous People (9 August) were undertaken by the NGO Committee for the Decade in collaboration with the New York Liaison Office of the Centre for Human Rights, and DPI. Indigenous people who are members of the NGO Committee were involved in the decision-making process and were responsible for planning the event and selecting official guests and indigenous leaders who performed spiritual ceremonies and delivered messages of peace. A round table on indigenous people and health was also held. On this occasion, DPI helped publicize the event and was responsible for media outreach. The Department contacted the press, including radio and television to publicize the Day and to provide information on the Day and the Decade.

98. In the field the following activities were undertaken in 1995 and in 1996:

Colombia: In observance of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People, UNIC Bogota invited the Director of "Hoy y mañana", a traditional programme of the Colombian radio station RCN to air "Perspective international", from the series "Nosotros los pueblos indígenos". UNIC also arranged interviews for the representatives of United Nations programmes involved in indigenous issues in Colombia.

Congo: UNIC Brazzaville organized a panel discussion on the pygmies, indigenous people living in the Congo. The DPI video "Indigenous people - A new partnership" was screened at that meeting.

Argentina: The Centre organized a workshop on the worldwide situation of indigenous people, with particular emphasis on the Argentine situation. The workshop was attended by representatives of NGOs. The main objectives of the workshop were to find ways to preserve the indigenous culture, protect indigenous peoples' homes, help them gain respect and improve their ways of living, among others.

Bangladesh: The Centre hosted a seminar in the UNDP conference room for a group of 40 tribal/indigenous students and leaders from the forests of Chittagong. They were briefed on the role of the United Nations in promoting the Decade. A United Nations film was also projected.

Switzerland: In 1995, UNIS Geneva organized a round table discussion on the theme "UN 50 and the world's indigenous people". In 1996, UNIS, in cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights, organized a screening of the film "The gene hunters", followed by a round table discussion on the issue of health and indigenous people.

Bolivia: The Centre's Director attended an official event at the Government Palace. The President of Bolivia paid tribute to the International Day and to indigenous people.

Spain: The UNIC Director gave an interview to Radio Onda Madrid on indigenous issues.

Philippines: The observance of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People was jointly organized by UNIC Manila, the NGO Earthsavers Movement and ILO. The programme included an exhibit and performances by indigenous people.

Morocco: UNIC Rabat issued two press releases which were distributed to officials, NGOs and the media. A special radio programme was devoted to indigenous people.

99. Throughout the Decade, the Department will maintain its fruitful cooperation with indigenous groups. UNICs and UNISs will be asked to undertake special promotional activities in collaboration with national authorities and non-governmental organizations to heighten public awareness of the issues that concern indigenous people. Such activities can consist of national painting or photography contests on the subject of indigenous people, exhibits, the organization of press conferences, briefings, or round tables, and the inclusion of relevant stories in UNIC newsletters and press releases. Since many UNICs and UNISs are located in countries where indigenous people live, they will also be asked to involve, whenever possible, indigenous people in the planning process of their activities. UNICs can cooperate with national authorities for the issuance of stamps to commemorate the Decade. UNIC Directors will also give interviews to the local media and participate in seminars, panels and lectures for educational and other institutions.

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Annex

PUBLICATIONS ISSUED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS/CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND AVAILABLE AS FROM DECEMBER 1996

FACT SHEETS

No. 1 Human Rights Machinery

No. 2 The International Bill of Human Rights (Rev.1)

No. 3 Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights (Rev.1)

No. 4 Methods of Combating Torture

No. 5 Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

No. 6 Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (Rev.1)

No. 7 Communication Procedures

No. 8 World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights

No. 9 The Rights of Indigenous Peoples

No. 10 The Rights of the Child

No. 11 Summary or Arbitrary Executions

No. 12 The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

No. 13 International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

No. 14 Contemporary Forms of Slavery

No. 15 Civil and Political Rights: The Human Rights Committee

No. 16 The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Rev.1)

No. 17 The Committee against Torture

No. 18 Minority Rights

No. 19 National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

No. 20 Human Rights and Refugees

No. 21 The Human Right to Adequate Housing

No. 22 Discrimination against Women: The Convention and the Committee

No. 23 Harmful Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children

No. 24 The Rights of Migrant Workers

No. 25 Forced Eviction and Human Rights

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING SERIES

No. 1 Human Rights and Social Work: A Manual for Schools of Social Work and the Social Work Profession

No. 2 Human Rights and Elections: A Handbook on the Legal, Technical and Human Rights Aspects of Elections

No. 3 Human Rights and Pre-Trial Detention: A Handbook of International Standards relating to Pre-Trial Detention

No. 4 National Human Rights Institutions: A Handbook on the Establishment and Strengthening of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

HUMAN RIGHTS STUDY SERIES

No. 1 Right to Adequate Food as a Human Right

No. 2 Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination based on Religion or Belief

No. 3 Freedom of the Individual under Law: an Analysis of Article 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

No. 4 Status of the Individual and Contemporary International Law: Promotion, Protection and Restoration of Human Rights at National, Regional and International Levels

No. 5 Study on the Rights of Persons belonging to Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities

No. 6 Human Rights and Disabled Persons

No. 7 The Right to Adequate Housing

No. 8 Sexual Exploitation of Children

AD HOC PUBLICATIONS

European Workshop on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Past-Present-Future (Milan, Italy, 7-9 September 1988)

The Administration of Justice and Human Rights for East European Countries: Report of a United Nations Training Course (Moscow, 21-25 November 1988)

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